Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 EPAE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 EUR-12 /184 W

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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9818

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PLOS ID IN TH

SUBJECT: SEABED BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS SIGNED

1. ON JUNE 22 THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF INDIA, INDONESIA AND THAILAND SIGNED AGREEMENTS DELIMITING THE SEABED BOUNDARY BETWEEN THEM IN THE ANDAMAN SEA. ONE AGREEMENT SETS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN INDIA AND THAILAND, AND COMPLEMENTS EARLIER, SIMILAR ACCORDS BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA AND BETWEEN THAILAND AND INDONESIA. ACCORDING TO A GOI PRESS RELEASE, THE INDO-THAI BOUNDARY RUNS FOR 94 NAUTICAL MILES AND CONSISTS OF STRAIGHT LINES CONNECTING SEVEN POINTS, WHICH GENERALLY FOLLOW THE MEDIAN LINE PRINCIPLE. A SECOND AGREEMENT, SIGNED BY ALL THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS, ESTABLISHES THE POINT WHERE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE THREE COUNTRIES COME TOGETHER. THE TRIJUNCTION POINT IS APPROXIMATELY EQUIDISTANT BETWEEN THE THREE COUNTRIES AND "ROUGHLY" 100 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE NEAREST POINT ON THEIR RESPECTIVE COASTS. UNCLASSIFIED

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2. AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY, FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE REMARKED ON THE SMOOTHNESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ADDED: "THE UNITED NATIONS HAVE DECLARED THE RESOURCES OF THE SEA AS COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND, BUT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS BEEN PAINFULLY SLOW IN REACHING CONSENSUS ON THE MODALITIES OF EXPLOITATION

OF THESE RESOURCES. IT IS WE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO NEED THESE RESOURCES MORE THAN OTHERS. WE CANNOT, THEREFORE, PERMIT THE STATUS QUO TO CONTINUE NOR CAN WE AFFORD THE LUXURY OF A SLOW PACE OF NEGOTIATION. WE HAVE TO MOVE FAST AND WE HAVE TO EXERT ALL THE INFLUENCE THAT WE CAN JOINTLY COMMAND ON THE RELUCTANT MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR A FAIR AND EQUITABLE SYSTEM OF HARNESSING THIS UNTOUCHED WEALTH FOR THE GOOD OF OUR PEOPLES."

3. WE WILL POUCH TO THE DEPARTMENT THE TEXTS OF THE AGREEMENTS AS SOON AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE. BLOOD

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